

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /058 W
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P R 051228Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4386
INFO AMCONSUL FLORENCE
AMCONSUL MILAN
AMCONSUL NAPLES

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 7300

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, IT, PINT
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH DC SECRETARY ZACCAGNINI

1. I PAID A BRIEF CALL ON DC SECRETARY BENIGNO ZACCAGNINI ON MAY 4TH. ALSO PRESENT WERE DC VICE SECRETARY GIOVANNI GALLONI AND ON. FRANCO SALVI WHO IS PART OF ZACCAGNINI'S SECRETARIAT.

2. I BEGAN OUR MEETING BY SAYING THAT I WISHED TO REVIEW WITH ZACCAGNINI OUR POLICY TOWARD ITALY, AND IN PARTICULAR TOWARD THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI), AS WELL AS TO DISCUSS FOREIGN POLICY OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. ZACCAGNINI QUICKLY SAID THAT HE HAD READ MY SPEECH ON FOREIGN POLICY TO THE NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE. HE WAS VERY COMPLIMENTARY ABOUT IT AND SAID THAT HE HAD NO QUARREL WITH THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF THE POLICY AS I HAD DESCRIBED IT IN THAT SPEECH.

3. I THEN REVIEWED WITH HIM OUR POLICY TOWARD THE PCI AND ASKED HIM TO READ THE PRESIDENT'S MOST RECENT
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STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. ZACCAGNINI EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT. HE ALSO SAID THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD AND SHARED THE BASIC MOTIVATION FOR A MORE RELAXED VISA POLICY AND A GRADUAL INCREASE IN CONTACTS WITH THE PCI. HOWEVER, IN THIS CONNECTION, HE EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN THAT OUR ACTIONS IN THIS FIELD MIGHT BE MISINTERPRETED

IN THE PRESS AND REPRESENTED AS A CHANGE IN OUR BASIC ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PCI. HE URGED PRUDENCE AND CAUTION IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY POSSIBILITY OF MISUNDERSTANDING OR MISINTERPRETATION. I ASSURED HIM THAT WE WOULD MOVE CAREFULLY, ADDING THAT IF THE ITALIAN PRESS SHOULD DISTORT THE MEANING AND SIGNIFICANCE OF OUR ACTIONS, WE WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CORRECT THE RECORD. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT WE WOULD HAVE HIS (AND THE DC'S) COOPERATION IN DOING SO.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE INCREASED PCI VISITS TO THE US, I URGED ZACCAGNINI TO ENCOURAGE A GREATER CONTACT BY THE DC WITH THE US, IN PARTICULAR SUGGESTING THE NEED FOR VISITS BY DC LEADERS AND PARLIAMENTARIANS TO THE US WHERE THEY WOULD FIND OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPLAIN THE ITALIAN SITUATION AND PROBLEMS IN MORE REALISTIC TERMS THAN WE CAN EXPECT FROM THOSE COMMUNISTS WHO MIGHT VISIT THE US. ZACCAGNINI ACCEPTED THE POINT AND SUGGESTED THAT WE DISCUSS IT WITH ON. LUIGI GRANELLI, WHO IS IN CHARGE OF THE DC'S INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE. WE WILL, OF COURSE, DISCUSS IT WITH GRANELLI (AS WE HAVE DONE BEFORE).

5. BECAUSE OF THE LIMITED TIME AVAILABLE THERE WAS NO OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE DC'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE OTHER PARTIES ON A POSSIBLE PROGRAMMATIC ACCORD. ZACCAGNINI DID COMMENT THAT THE HEART OF THE PROBLEM IS THE PCI'S CONFIDENTIAL

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DESIRE TO BE ACCEPTED POLITICALLY AS PART OF THE GOVERNING MAJORITY. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT SATISFACTORY ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE WORKED OUT WITHOUT TAKING THAT FATEFUL STEP BUT HE DECLINED TO MAKE ANY PREDICTIONS ON THE OUTCOME OF THE MATTER. LIKE SO MANY OTHERS, HE LAMENTED THE PSI'S UNWILLINGNESS TO PLAY A RESPONSIBLE ROLE.

6. COMMENT: THE MEETING WAS VERY CORDIAL AND WE AGREED ON THE NEED FOR A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING AND CLOSE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE DC AND THE EMBASSY. ZACCAGNINI AND HIS COLLEAGUES DID SEEM RELIEVED BY MY ASSURANCES ON OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PCI. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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